

The Honorable Robert J. Bryan

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT TACOMA

UGOCHUKWU GOODLUCK
NWAUZOR, FERNANDO AGUIRRE-
URBINA, individually and on behalf of all
those similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

v.

THE GEO GROUP, INC., a Florida
corporation,

Defendant.

No. 17-cv-05769-RJB

DECLARATION OF FERNANDO
AGUIRRE-URBINA IN SUPPORT
OF PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR
CLASS CERTIFICATION

I, FERNANDO AGUIRRE-URBINA, declare as follows:

1. I am over the age of eighteen, competent to testify in this matter, and do so
based on personal knowledge.

2. I was born in Mexico, but I came to the United States when I was about three
years-old and have lived in the United States ever since. I have been detained at the
Northwest Detention Center ("NWDC") as a civil immigration detainee since approximately
September 2012.

3. Upon my entry to the NWDC, Defendant The GEO Group, Inc. ("GEO")
issued me a "Detainee Handbook," and I underwent an "NWDC Orientation" conducted by

1 GEO. I learned about the Voluntary Work Program, among other things, during the
2 orientation. After learning about the VWP, I requested to take part in the program.

3 4. Eventually, GEO scheduled me for work assignments. During my detention, I
4 have worked as a shower cleaner, dayroom cleaner, barbershop cleaner, food porter, juice
5 server, in the kitchen, and picking up garbage outside the pods. I have worked virtually every
6 day. The amount of time I worked each day varied depending on the job, but could be up to
7 four hours when I was working in the kitchen.
8

9 5. GEO supervises and controls all aspects of my work, providing me with
10 training and the equipment I needed to perform my job at NWDC. Because of my detainee
11 status, GEO did not permit me to seek employment from another employer outside the walls
12 of the NWDC. Regardless of how many hours I work in a day or week, I am never
13 compensated more than \$1 per day for my labor.
14

15 6. I use the money I earn in the VWP for more and better food and personal
16 hygiene items, and for phone calls, which could cost 10 cents per minute or more.

17 7. To the best of my knowledge, hundreds of detainees, if not more, took part in
18 the VWP while I was at NWDC. I believe that other detainees performed similar work
19 assignments, including jobs in the laundry, and other cleaning and maintenance type jobs. I
20 am not aware of any other detainee receiving more than \$1 per day for participating in the
21 VWP.
22

23 8. I understand that I am bringing this case on behalf of all current and former
24 detainees at NWDC who participated in the VWP at any time since September 26, 2014, and
25 that I will be representing their interests in this case. I understand that my role in this case is
26


1 to help the lawyers get proper payment for wages for all the other detainees participating in
2 the VWP at NWDC since September 26, 2014, not just myself.

3 9. I understand the responsibilities involved in being both a plaintiff and a class
4 representative in this lawsuit. I am prepared to cooperate with my counsel and meet all of my
5 duties and obligations to make sure this lawsuit is pursued in the best interest of me and all
6 other current and former participants in the VWP at NWDC. I understand that this means that
7 I may be required to have my deposition taken by GEO's lawyers and to respond to other
8 discovery.
9

10 10. I am willing to help prepare for and attend trial, to testify, and assist my
11 attorneys as needed and to continue to participate actively in the direction of this case. I did
12 not recall the existence of GEO's counterclaim at the time of my deposition, but I am aware
13 of it now, and it does not affect my willingness to pursue this case for myself and the other
14 detainees who have participated in the VWP.
15

16 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States that the
17 foregoing is true and correct and based on my personal knowledge.

18 Executed in Tacom, Washington, on June 14 2018.
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22 Fernando Aguirre-Urbina
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